

end in triumph—like World War II—or in bitter defeat—like Vietnam. It neither united us the way World War II did, nor did it divide us to the degree that Vietnam did. It was not even called a war, as such, but was generally referred to as a “police action,” or “conflict.” The memorial dedicated on the Mall today not only honors those who served and died in the Korean war, it also gives them their proper place in our Nation’s collective memory.

The Korean war is significant in our history for many reasons, one of those being that it was the stage for the first war in which a world organization—the United Nations—played a military role. It was a tremendous challenge for the United Nations, which had come into existence only 5 years earlier. We only recently commemorated its 50th anniversary, so it is perhaps fitting that the opening of the Korean Veterans Memorial coincides with that celebration, since it was the United Nations’ first major test.

The Korean war began on June 25, 1950, when troops from Communist-ruled North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations called the invasion a violation of international peace and demanded that the Communists withdraw from the south. After the Communists refused and kept fighting, the United Nations asked its members to provide military aid to South Korea. Sixteen U.N. countries sent troops to help the South Koreans, and a total of 41 nations sent military equipment or food and other supplies. As we know, the largest share of U.N. support for South Korea came from the United States, and the greatest burden was born by American servicemen and women. China aided North Korea, and the former Soviet Union gave military equipment to the North Koreans.

The war went on for 3 years, ending on July 27, 1953, with an armistice agreement between the United Nations and North Korea. A permanent peace treaty remains an elusive goal as 37,000 American troops to this day remain in South Korea to discourage a resumption of hostilities.

In many ways, the Korean war set the pattern for future United States military efforts. It saw important innovations in military technology, such as fighting between jet aircraft as American F-86’s battled Soviet-built MiG-15’s. It was the first conventional war that could have easily escalated to atomic dimensions.

The war unalterably changed the nature of superpower relations. The dramatic American demobilization after World War II was reversed and the United States has since maintained a strong military force. Cold war tensions mounted, and some historians argue that the war fostered dangerous “McCarthyism” at home.

Hopefully, this moving memorial will help Americans of all ages come to better understand and appreciate the importance of the sacrifices made by those who fought and died during the

Korean war. On this day of the dedication of their memorial, I stand with each of my colleagues in saluting all veterans of the Korean war. Their service and sacrifices—as well as that of their families—are not forgotten.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Washington Post editorial, “The Korean War: On the Mall,” from July 26 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE KOREAN WAR: ON THE MALL

A memorial to American veterans of the Korean War (1950-53) is to be dedicated tomorrow on the Mall across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Memorial. It deserves to be there, for “Korea” was a convulsive but finally proud event in the tradition of the presidents honored on this hallowed national ground.

In Korea the United States led a score of nations successfully resisting what was pure and simple Communist aggression. It was a moment in the history of freedom, and the 54,000 Americans who died and the many others who fought there earned the benediction in stone and steel now being bestowed.

The Korean War can seem a grim and inevitable episode in the grinding global collision of the Cold War. Yet at key moments it was anything but fated. Secretary of State Dean Acheson simply erred when he said in January 1950 that the Korean peninsula, divided by Washington and Moscow as World War II closed, was outside the U.S. “defensive perimeter.” A fortnight later Stalin, the Soviet Communist leader, instructed his envoy to tell North Korea’s dictator, Kim Il Sung, that “I am ready to help him in this matter” of reuniting Korea.

It was far from certain that the struggling American president, Harry Truman, would reverse course and respond resolutely when North Korea invaded in June. It was even less predictable that Gen. Douglas MacArthur, author of the Marines’ legendary Inchon landing, would ignore the new Chinese Communist government’s warnings and, tragically, end up fighting China too.

With its evocative poncho-clad figures, the new memorial captures the war’s signature of foot-soldiers trudging into endless combat. Once the battle had gone up and down the peninsula several times, the war stabilized on the original dividing line but continued at dear cost—until the stalemate was mutually confirmed, until North Korea accepted the American insistence that its soldiers who were prisoners in the South would not be repatriated against their will.

That the war ended not in World War II-type triumph but in anticlimatic armistice has encouraged the notion that the outcome was a compromise or even a defeat. But although the aggressor was not unseated (the goal of Gen. MacArthur’s rollback strategy), North Korea was repulsed and South Korea saved. Time and space were bought for a competition of systems in which the South came to exemplify democratic and free-market growth, while North Korea stayed a stunted and dangerous hermit state. If there is yet a chance that things may go better, it is because the United States did what it had to in the war and then stayed the course, to this day.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Mr. D’AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the sacrifices of the many hundreds of thousands of American servicemen who bravely fought

the forces of communism in that far-off peninsula of Korea. As the primary contingent of an international force that succeeded in halting the tide of Soviet and Chinese expansion and influence, Korean war veterans won what many have seen as the first battle of the cold war.

The experience of the Korean war forever changed the nature of the superpower relationship as well as America’s bilateral relations with its overseas allies. In defending the democratic South Korean Government against the aggression of the communist North, America won the friendship of a government committed to furthering American values and ideals. Today we look at South Korea as a important ally and model of political, social, and economic development.

Many have referred to the Korean war as the forgotten war because its significance has only been truly realized after our eventual triumph over totalitarianism. With today’s dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial by President Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young Sam, the sacrifices of the over 54,000 Americans killed and the 1.5 million men and women who served will finally be recognized. The memorial will serve to forever preserve a place of honor that these heroes have always deserved. Let these America’s Korean war veterans never again be forgotten.

THE RYAN WHITE CARE REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the chairwoman of the Committee on Health and Human Resources, Senator NANCY LANDON-KASSEBAUM, on the passage of the Ryan White CARE Reauthorization act of 1995. The act assures that AIDS-related services will be available to people in big cities, small towns, and rural communities all across the country, it also ensures that funding is provided for Indian AIDS victims.

Some may recall that during the original debate on the Ryan White CARE Act in 1990, I, and several of my colleagues on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, offered an amendment to title II of the bill to ensure that Indians with HIV and their families were eligible to participate in the special projects of national significance. That provision was accepted and as a result, hundreds of Indians with HIV, who would otherwise have had great difficulty accessing services, have been served.

Many in the Congress are not aware that in comparison to other populations, Indians are among the highest at-risk populations for the HIV infection. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control reported that in just 2 years, from 1988 to 1990, the number of reported American Indian AIDS cases increased by 120 percent in comparison to an overall national increase of 35 percent. Unfortunately, this trend still